

NATIONAL THREAT LANDSCAPE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

This assessment is intended to provide situational awareness of threats with potential national-level implications related to public order, public safety and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. The information in this assessment is based on reporting from RCMP Divisions, law enforcement partners, searches conducted against RCMP holdings, and open source resources (current as of 2021-08-26). The IMCIT continues to maintain visibility on emerging threats and will provide updates on a periodic or as required basis.

KEY POINTS

- Threats to officer and public safety arising from the public order events discussed below are currently assessed as low. Law enforcement partners have not reported any information indicating that protestors or protest organizers are overtly advocating for violence.
- Threats to the vaccine rollout are currently assessed as low.

THREATS TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Based on current available information, threats to the public safety are assessed as low.

FISHERIES DISPUTE - ST. MARYS BAY, NOVA SCOTIA (NS)

Potential for unauthorized fishing and increased tensions between non-Indigenous and Indigenous fishers which could impact public or officer safety.

In September of 2020, the Sipekne'katik First Nation community fishers launched a self-regulated lobster fishery that met opposition from non-Indigenous commercial fishers resulting in violence, property damage and arson.¹ The Sipekne'katik fishers previously advised that they intended to re-launch a fishery in June of 2021 in St. Marys Bay "outside of the federal commercial season and without federal licenses".²

Until recently, the Sipekne'katik were operating a food, social and ceremonial lobster fishery that harvests at various times of the year. It is regulated by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and does not permit the sale of the catch.³ There have been a number of notable incidents throughout this reporting period:

Page 1 of 6

Federal Policing National Intelligence – Ideologically Motivated Criminal Intelligence Team (IMCIT)

This document and information contained therein is the property of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). It is loaned specifically to your agency in confidence and for law-enforcement purposes only. The document is not to be reclassified or further disseminated outside your agency and is not to be used in affidavits, or for other legal or judicial purpose without the written consent of the RCMP. This caveat is an integral part of this document and must accompany any extracted information. All reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure that the information is safeguarded against unauthorized disclosure. For any enquiries please contact **Irrelevant**



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

- On August 5, 2021, 10 Mi'kmaw^a lobster fishing boats were cut from their moorings and a lobster crate containing approximately \$800.00 worth of lobster was stolen from one of the boats.⁴
- On August 16, 2021, DFO arrested the Sipekne'katik First Nation Chief while the DFO and Canadian Coast Guard removed lobster traps after the Sipekne'katik community expanded and opened its illegal lobster-fishing season. The Sipekne'katik community described it as a "treaty fishery"⁵ that is managed by the band based on "sound conservation measures".⁶ Information from H Division indicates there has been an increase in Indigenous support online following the arrest of the Sipekne'katik First Nation Chief. There is negative sentiment among Indigenous fishers related to the DFO enforcement due to a perception that the DFO is targeting Indigenous fishers. s.37
s.37
s.37 The flag was replaced by a Sipekne'katik lobster harvester.⁸
- On August 18, 2021, RCMP received a complaint that 43 lobster traps valued at \$10,750 were stolen from a commercial property in Digby, NS.⁹
- On August 25, 2021, further media reports indicate 32 traps valued at \$8,000 were stolen from the same property and the investigation into both incidents is ongoing.¹⁰
- On August 25, 2021, news reports also indicate Mi'kmaw lobster harvesters, who were treaty fishing in NS, were arrested and their boat was seized by DFO.¹¹

Currently this dispute is limited to H Division. The IMCIT has not identified information to suggest public order events will occur in NS as they have in the past,¹² nor that there could be spillover into other parts of the country.

OLD-GROWTH LOGGING - SOUTHWEST VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA (BC)

Potential for continued criminality, solidarity actions and counter-protests which could impact public or officer safety.

Since May of 2021, the RCMP's enforcement of an injunction prohibiting the obstruction, impediment, or interference with logging has resulted in 810 arrests.¹³ The number of arrests and issue of old-growth logging protection have gained global attention from environmental groups while media attention is increasing. A recent announcement from the federal government promising a \$50-million fund for old-growth protection in BC brought further attention to the topic.¹⁴ In addition, news reports indicate an NDP Member of Parliament is calling for an investigation into the RCMP's actions.¹⁵

According to open source information, tensions with police are escalating.¹⁶ On August 23, 2021, peaceful protests calling for the RCMP to "stand down" in relation to the injunction enforcement were held outside multiple RCMP detachments in BC and solidarity events were held in Calgary and Toronto.¹⁷ On August 24, 2021, a rally in support of preserving old-growth logging was held outside a Vancouver hotel where the Prime Minister was expected¹⁸ and signs requesting the RCMP stand down were visible.¹⁹ "E" Division continues to provide daily news releases on the blockade camps.²⁰

^a Mi'kmaw is the singular form of Mi'kmaq. <https://novascotia.ca/abor/docs/links/use-of-words.pdf>
The Sipekne'katik First Nation belongs to the wider Mi'kmaw nation. <https://sipeknekatik.ca/history/>

Continued enforcement of the injunction is likely to be perceived negatively by the protesters and could spark more solidarity actions across the country. Regular media reporting from BC captures the increasingly dangerous tactics that protesters are using at the blockade sites.²¹ Social media in support of the protesters during this reporting period has focused on allegations of police misconduct. On August 26, 2021, a news report was released indicating the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission has received over 90 public complaints about police enforcement measures at the blockades.²²

CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES - NATIONAL MOBILIZATION

Potential for criminality and potential for Canada-wide actions.

An environmental group named 350 Canada has planned a "Canada on Fire Day of Action" for September 8, 2021 to ensure climate change is a top election issue.²³ Multiple Canadian cities are listed as taking part in the action, which will likely include public order events, marches and banner drops in various locations.²⁴

Additional environmental groups are also attempting to coordinate separate nationwide days of action in October of 2021.²⁵ A national coordination meeting called, "Shut Down Canada Mobilization Meeting" has been planned via publicly accessible videoconference for August 28, 2021.²⁶ As of this writing, an agenda or potential future locations of disruption are not available. It is anticipated that events like these will be widely publicized through social media leading up to the actions which will include public order events across the country. While the majority of these events are likely to be peaceful, past tactics by some of the groups have included blocking bridges and traffic disruptions at intersections. For example Extinction Rebellion, the group associated to the planned videoconference, occupied intersections in Vancouver on August 21, 2021, leading to four arrests.²⁷

Environmental groups have seized the opportunity presented by extreme weather across Canada, the federal election, and the release of a report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to further their narratives.²⁸ Due to increased attention to the issue of climate change and the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in several provinces, the IMCIT assesses that public order events related to climate issues are expected to continue.

"WHITE LIVES MATTER" MARCHES AND POSTERING CAMPAIGN

Potential for solidarity actions and counter-protests that could impact public or officer safety.

"White Lives Matter" (WLM) public order events have been advertised internationally since March of 2021. WLM posters have been observed in several Canadian cities; however, public order events remain confined to Ontario with protests occurring monthly since April of 2021. Open source information indicates attendance at events has been minimal with no reported incidents of violence. Global protests by WLM groups are set to occur monthly throughout the remainder of 2021. The next international date of protest is September 18, 2021 and WLM Telegram channels^b are encouraging

s.37

followers to conduct banner drops and poster campaigns leading up to the protest.²⁹ Open source queries and information from law enforcement partners for this reporting period yielded no specific intelligence to indicate these events pose a risk to public safety from protesters or counter-protesters.

ANTI-LOCKDOWN/ANTI-MASK/ANTI-VACCINATION PROTESTS

Potential for public health restriction violations.

Anti-vaccination sentiment is the current focus of weekly protests opposed to public health restrictions. To date, law enforcement partners have not reported any information indicating that protestors or protest organizers are overtly advocating for violence.

For this reporting period, the majority of these public order events have focused on the perception that vaccine passports are a form of coercion implemented by the government to force vaccinations. Announcements of vaccine passports to access non-essential activities, mandated vaccination policies implemented by some employers and businesses adopting their own rules requiring patrons to be vaccinated are driving discussions in this space.

Public order events related to vaccine passports in Quebec have garnered significant attention due to their size. Information from C Division indicates a peaceful protest opposing vaccine passports on August 14, 2021 in Montreal attracted approximately 30,000 protesters at the height of the demonstration.³⁰ Businesses that have publicly supported vaccines³¹ or participated in vaccine passport pilot programs have been locations of protest.³² Impromptu protests outside Liberal Party campaign stops throughout Canada have also been observed, where the majority of protesters appear critical of the federal government's response to the pandemic. Nationwide rallies against mandatory vaccines are taking place on September 1, 2021 and are being promoted online through social media by the group "Canadian Frontline Nurses".³³ The majority of these protests list locations outside hospitals in various cities throughout Canada. Based on open source information, these protests will attract individuals who attend the weekly protests opposing public health restrictions.

Aside from public health risks, no other public safety threats related to the ongoing protests have been identified. The IMCIT assesses that as vaccination regulations continue to evolve for business and travel, perceptions of forced vaccination will continue to be the narrative among individuals and groups who perceive COVID-19 is being used by the government to strip Canadians of their rights and freedoms.

THREATS TO THE COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

Based on current available information, threats to the vaccine rollout is assessed as low.

Although public order events containing anti-vaccine rhetoric have occurred nationwide, there are no reports of violence or efforts to disrupt the vaccine rollout for this reporting period. However, anti-vaccine protests in the U.S. and Europe have resulted in incidents of vandalism at vaccination centres and clashes with police and counter-protesters.

With some Canadian employers requiring their employees to be vaccinated, there is a possibility that unvaccinated employees in affected sectors may become disgruntled. It is possible that employees who

Page 4 of 6

Federal Policing National Intelligence – Ideologically Motivated Criminal Intelligence Team (IMCIT)

This document and information contained therein is the property of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). It is loaned specifically to your agency in confidence and for law-enforcement purposes only. The document is not to be reclassified or further disseminated outside your agency and is not to be used in affidavits, or for other legal or judicial purpose without the written consent of the RCMP. This caveat is an integral part of this document and must accompany any extracted information. All reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure that the information is safeguarded against unauthorized disclosure. For any enquiries please contact [redacted] irrelevant

disagree with vaccine mandates, and who have access to vaccine-related products and services, may seek to sabotage the rollout. At this time, there are no confirmed reports of such attempts. However, the IMCIT has identified one provincial health authority employee who claims to have “leaked” information about the province’s proof of vaccination program on a publicly accessible online forum. This information has been forwarded to the PoJ. The leaked information included draft proof of vaccination templates and style guidelines, which could be used to produce false immunization records.

There have been reports of fake COVID-19 immunization cards seized at the border.³⁴ The IMCIT assessed there are likely to be further attempts to produce and use false immunization records to circumvent proposed proof of vaccination programs as they are rolled out across jurisdictions.

Issued by: Ideologically Motivated Criminal Intelligence Team (IMCIT)

Approved by: Director, Directorate of Strategic Intelligence, Federal Policing National Intelligence

¹ <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/lobster-catch-destroyed-vehicle-burned-as-tension-rises-over-indigenous-fishery-in-n-s-1.5144540>

² <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/n-s-mi-kmaq-fisher-says-his-movements-are-being-watched-and-his-traps-seized-by-dfo-1.5434949>

³ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-first-nation-treaty-fishery-monday-1.6140089>

⁴ <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2021/rcmp-investigating-boats-cut-moorings-weymouth>

⁵ <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/first-nation-in-n-s-vows-to-keep-fishing-despite-arrest-for-unauthorized-fishery-1.5554897>

⁶ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-first-nation-treaty-fishery-monday-1.6140089>

s.37

⁸ <https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/flag-day-acadian-symbol-rescued-by-mikmaw-fishers/>

⁹ <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2021/digby-rcmp-investigating-theft-lobster-traps>

¹⁰ <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/n-s-rcmp-investigating-after-dozens-of-lobster-traps-were-stolen-from-commercial-property-in-digby-1.5560955>

¹¹ <https://www.aptnnews.ca/videos/14-year-old-boy-among-mikmaw-lobster-harvesters-arrested-in-nova-scotia/>

¹² <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/nova-scotia-lobster-fishermen-protest-out-of-control-first-nations-fishery-1.5106027>

¹³ <https://bc-cb.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=2130&languageId=1&contentId=70887>

¹⁴ <https://vancouver.sun.com/news/liberals-promise-50-million-fund-for-old-growth-protection-in-b-c>

¹⁵ <https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/federal-ndp-calling-for-investigation-into-rcmp-actions-at-fairy-creek-protests-1.24352979>

¹⁶ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/fairy-creek-arrests-tensions-rising-1.6146934>

¹⁷ <https://www.instagram.com/p/CS5UcQbFVGL/>

¹⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/protesters-vancouver-trudeau-1.6152313>

¹⁹ Personal Info.

²⁰ RCMP E Division, Division Intelligence Analysis Team, Criminal Intelligence Section

²¹ <https://bc-cb.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=2130&languageId=1&contentId=70817>

²² <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/08/26/watchdog-gets-over-90-complaints-on-rcmp-enforcement-at-fairy-creek.html>

²³ <https://350.org/still-on-fire/>

²⁴ https://act.350.org/event/still-on-fire-doa/search/?_ga=2.147846704.60705794.1629831929-570252455.1629831928

²⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/events/306731521233715/>

²⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/events/160018596263377/>

²⁷ <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/4-arrested-at-extinction-rebellion-protest-that-didn-t-make-it-to-its-intended-destinations-1.5556570>

²⁸ <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-58130705>

s.37

³⁰ RCMP C Division, Divisional Criminal Analysis Section

³¹ <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/toronto-restaurateur-fed-up-with-anti-vaccine-protesters-who-scream-at-guests-and-staff-1.5558263>

³² <https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/vaccine-passport-protesters-gather-outside-laval-gym-1.5550675>

³³ <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianFrontlineNurses/posts/219303613474576>

³⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-58063647>

Page 6 of 6

Federal Policing National Intelligence – Ideologically Motivated Criminal Intelligence Team (IMCIT)

This document and information contained therein is the property of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). It is loaned specifically to your agency in confidence and for law-enforcement purposes only. The document is not to be reclassified or further disseminated outside your agency and is not to be used in affidavits, or for other legal or judicial purpose without the written consent of the RCMP. This caveat is an integral part of this document and must accompany any extracted information. All reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure that the information is safeguarded against unauthorized disclosure. For any enquiries please contact: irrelevant